

To the Hon. John S. Macdonald,
Premier of Ontario, and the Minister
of the Government.

GENTLEMEN,—As we represent the industrious class of agriculturists, in their behalf we most particularly request that you will act in no haste in expending the money voted at the last session of Parliament for professed agricultural purposes. Should the power that such a sum will confer on the controllers of our agricultural affairs be mis-applied, it will tend much against the agricultural interests of this Province and the Dominion. We have grave reasons to imagine that it will be expended against the interests of the laboring farmers, and are prepared to show you or your colleagues that such may and most probably will be the case, unless due time is taken for consideration before any expenditures are made. We believe it would be much to the interest of the farmers that the opinions of the new Board of Agriculture should be obtained in regard to the most beneficial way of expending it.

W. WELD.

The Herald & Prototype alias Scavenger.

There exists in this city a paper under the name of the "Herald & Prototype." Its support is from money raised by taxation from the country, and paid to the proprietors by the government for advertising and jobs, and by giving fat offices to some who write for it. Its main work is to laud every act, no matter how vile its masters may be guilty of. Another mission it has to perform is to attack and condemn any person that has any influence and is not a tool to the party that maintains it. It has been issuing libels of the vilest nature against us for the purpose of damaging our undertaking. We can, if we choose, bring an action against them, but as the paper has scarcely any circulation in the country, and the very smallest in the city of the city papers, it does not much signify what it says; besides, its character is well known. But the places where this paper is to be found is on the file in the Parliament buildings and places where members of Parliament resort.—They are placed there no doubt for the particular advantage of the Minister of Agriculture, whose pocket paper it might be termed for him or his aids to clip extracts, and to show as authority. We know of no such vile, false statements having been made by any paper in the Dominion in regard to us, and it has been done no doubt to serve objects and to suit the purpose of its masters. As scavengers are the persons that do the dirtiest and most stinking work in large cities, such as crawling up the slimy sewers for a living, we shall hereafter denominate that journal the "Scavenger," and leave it to drag its own putrid and polluted carcass through its sewers of self-made wretchedness.

Potatoes.

As several are writing to us to know more about the different varieties of potatoes, we deem it our duty to reply.

As the Rose has been making the greatest talk in Canada, we must say that on light, dry and quick land, in good heart, they have done well, and the parties receiving them are well satisfied. For early cropping, quality and yield, they will be extensively planted. We do not find them of equal quality with the Calico for winter or fall eating. On clay soils and damp land they do not answer. They are more liable to rot than any other variety we have tried. In clay soils

THE GOODRICH

Has given far more satisfaction than the

Rose. They stand most in public favor; are very prolific, of good, fair quality as early potatoes, but are not equal to other sorts as a fall potato.

The Harrisons have out-yielded anything we have yet fully tested. The crop is perfectly astonishing.

The Calicos, on suitable locations, have yielded largely, but cannot be called as prolific as some other varieties. For quality it stands No. 1 in our estimation, far surpassing either of the above varieties.

We have raised a few of the following varieties, but not sufficient to fully report on, and must take our information mainly from others. We believe they are destined to surpass the foregoing varieties, as the above varieties have surpassed the old common sorts.

The Willard Seedling appears a very handsome, well shaped, red potato, and is highly spoken of. Its appearance equals any. They should be tried; we intend doing so, as we are pleased with their appearance. We should judge them to be a very hardy variety.

We will quote from Bliss's Catalogue the account of the following, and the culture of potatoes.

We have made our selection from the best varieties known. We imported the Peach Blow from England. Many now think it a superior potato, but we struck it off our list for four reasons: they are very late in ripening; they are the worst potatoes to dig; they do not yield as largely as the new varieties. The Miltoes rot badly, and do not yield as well as the new varieties.

The Pinkeys are about played out.

The Australians do not crop well, and rot badly.

Flukes, Flounders, and Neshonics are coarse. This is as we find them in this locality.

CULTURE.—A deep, thoroughly drained, light, sandy loam or peaty soil is most suitable for the potato. If the soil is new, (other things being equal,) so much the better; well drained muck soil, if matured by culture, is appropriate. The application of stable manure, unless thoroughly decomposed, is now generally considered to increase their liability to disease, to bring it on at an earlier period than would otherwise be the case, and also to produce large crops of imperfectly matured tubers, which, if they escape the disease while in the ground, are more liable to be attacked after they are lifted than those grown on poorer soil. The ground selected, therefore, should be in fair condition from having been moderately manured for some exhausting green crop in the previous season. But if the only land to be had is so poor as to render it necessary to apply manure in order to insure a fair crop, then use charred vegetable refuse, superphosphate of lime, or a very light dressing of well decayed farm yard manure. If green manure only can be had, it should be carted to the field late in the fall, spread evenly upon the surface, and plowed under in the spring; or it may be plowed before applying the manure, and cross-plowed again in the spring. Plow deep and subsoil. Many prefer fall plowing, in order that the soil may be thoroughly disintegrated by the action of frost.—Plant as early as the ground can be found in fair working condition; let it be well levelled, harrowed and rolled. Cut the potatoes to single eyes, commencing towards the butt; hold the tuber in the left hand, and with a sharp knife cut as large a piece of the tuber with each eye as their number will admit, drawing your knife toward the centre of the butt, and turn the tuber in your hand as if you were sharpening a pencil. By this method the tubers are more equally divided, and the eyes of uniform size. They should be allowed to dry two or three days after cutting. Should this not be convenient, let the sets be well rolled in plaster before planting, to absorb the

moisture. Plant in hills or drills, as you may prefer. Mark out your ground as if for corn, if in hills three feet apart each way, if in drills they should be three feet apart and one foot in the drills. A single eye is sufficient in either case, though many prefer two eyes when planting in hills. By this method a great saving of seed is effected, with equally satisfactory results. An acre of ground will require about two barrels of seed when cut and planted in this way. The sets should be covered about six inches, leaving the soil over them, if at all heavy, as open and loose as possible; if light, slightly pressed down. Before planting place in each hill a handful of compost, prepared as follows:—Take one cask of lime and slake it with water, stir in one bushel of fine salt, and mix in wood ashes so that it may not be too wet to handle; it will make about five barrels. When the tops are two or three inches above the ground, cultivate or hoe, drawing the soil carefully about them. In the case of early sorts which may be in danger of suffering from frost, the soil should be kept ridged up about the shoots as soon as they appear above the ground, keeping them nearly covered until four to six inches, and all danger of frost is past. Before earthing up, the ground should be well stirred between the rows with a cultivator, or if in gardens, lightly forked so as to pulverize the soil. Keep the ground clear of weeds if you wish for a good crop of potatoes. In digging take advantage of clear and dry weather, as soon as the tops are dead. Let them dry upon the barn floor, and stow away in a cool dry cellar.

Bresce's King of the Earlys, or No. 4.—This is without exception the earliest variety in cultivation, having been carefully tested by many prominent agriculturists in various parts of the country the past season, and by them pronounced from five to ten days earlier than the celebrated Early Rose, and fully its equal in quality, productiveness and general appearance. It is described by the originator as follows: "Raised in 1862 by Albert Bresce of Hubbardston, Vt., from a seed ball of the Garnet Chili; vines quite dwarf, averaging from ten to twelve inches; bears no seed balls, leaves large, tubers large and handsome, roundish, and slightly flattened; eyes small and somewhat pinkish, skin flesh color, or dull pinkish white; flesh white, floury, cooks well, and is of the best quality for the table. Has thus far proved very hardy and the earliest in cultivation. It possesses one great advantage over all other varieties on account of the dwarf of the vines, in consequence of which they can be planted much closer, both in hills and drills, than other varieties, thereby giving a much greater yield per acre. So great was the anxiety among Potato growers to procure this variety last Spring, that quite a number were sold at \$50 each. As far as we have heard, all who purchased even at this high price, are fully satisfied of its superiority. A silver medal was awarded to Mr. Bresce for his seedlings, by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

Bresce's Prolific.—This variety originated with Mr. Bresce in 1861, and are from the same seed ball with the Early Rose—both seedlings of the Garnet Chili. The vines of Bresce's Prolific are of medium height, quite bushy, somewhat spreading, large leaves, have produced no seed balls. Tubers large, regular in shape, and very smooth, slightly oblong, somewhat flattened. Skin dull white, inclined to be russeted, eyes but little depressed and slightly pinkish, flesh white, cooks quickly, is very mealy and of excellent quality, yield very large, and exceeding one hundred fold, matures about three weeks later than the Early Rose, and will prove a most valuable variety for field culture. This variety has been thoroughly disseminated throughout the country the past season, and we are continually receiving the most flattering reports of its extraordinary productiveness and quality.

Bresce's Peerless, or No. 6.—The latest and best of all of Mr. Bresce's Seedlings for the main crop. This is also a seedling of the Garnet Chili, and originated from the same seed ball as the Early Rose; skin dull white, occasionally russeted, eyes shallow, oblong, flesh white, mealy, grows to a large size, often weighing from one and a half to two pounds, and enormously productive. At a trial before a committee of the Mass. Horticultural Society in September last, this variety obtained more votes as to quality than any other of Bresce's Seedlings.

Climax.—A seedling of the Early Goodrich, very early, uniformly large, long, cylindrical, skin white, eyes sharp, shallow; flesh white and solid. In productiveness, it is fully equal to the Early Goodrich, while its keeping quali-

ties are as good as the Peachblow; very hardy and healthy.

Excelsior.—A superior table variety, very productive, of medium size, cooks white and dry, of excellent flavor, and retains its good qualities through the entire season.

The Western Fair.

Recent revelations have declared that the Western Fair is one of the greatest attempts that has ever been made to delude the farmers. Many of them now begin to see it is to enchain the farmers and make them subservient to some of the present city powers. The great prizes set forth before the public on large placards have not been paid except in cases where the ruling power may have thought fit; the real cash funds appear to have been tampered with, and a large sum has been cunningly cloaked and passed before the Board that very few farmers are aware of. Can such things be wondered at, when the principal management has been under the control of a man who was a President of the old Board of Agriculture when the greatest iniquities were being perpetrated on the country, himself being an active actor on some of the scenes, and cognizant of others. If he had done his duty he would not have cloaked and concealed these acts. He was rejected from the new Board by the voice of the farmers, and now uses his influence to ensnare the farmers and injure the new Provincial Board. In this act he is aided by nearly all the subservient servants, and office holders, and place-seekers in this city,—and they are legion here,—as the immense sums of public money expended here has a great power of enchainment against their knowledge of what is right. We understand that this is the person for whom the great Agricultural tax is to be expended, and that he is one of the principal advisers of the Minister of Agriculture. Which of the two is boss we cannot say, but we pity Carling for not having perception enough to see through the blows that are put on his shoulders by that individual.

Annual Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture.

We have received the above-mentioned work, which is a large and expensive compilation of statistics or reports. Some editors appear to gloss it over, but the main facts show a great falling off in the cereal products, which is not to be wondered at, as the farmers are so heavily taxed that thousands cannot afford to procure a change of seed, and from dire necessity are compelled to sow the old varieties. We all know that each kind of cereal diminishes in yield after a few years' cultivation. The report contains no less than 129 pages of matter, devoted most particularly to amateurs or cultivators of fruits. No doubt much useful information is contained in it, as it is greatly composed of matter on insects affecting fruits, and the different kinds of fruit, fruit culture, &c.; but it is sadly deficient in not having one single page concerning new cereals, nor of one of the thousands of pests which injure our grain crops; nor have we seen much in reference to the most necessary operation of draining. This and seed we think of the most importance to farmers, and are the foundations of success. If these are neglected it shows a deficiency somewhere.

In sending for seeds registered letters are at our risk. Remember we can send much more for the sum when we send by express or rail, as postage is expensive. Give the name of the station and state by what railroad.

Belleville is organizing a Dairymen's Association on its own hook, and we think it is quite right in so doing.